

Washington, DC – Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) was named Vice-Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday evening.

“As a member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I’ve worked hard to ensure that critical resources have flowed to not only the 23rd Congressional District, but to our entire nation,” said Congressman Rodriguez. “This vice-chairmanship will provide me with greater opportunities to fight for the resources we need to protect our networks, borders, ports, infrastructure and communities from natural disasters, threats and acts of terrorism. I will work closely with other Committee Members to create bipartisan responses to homeland security challenges in fiscally responsible and efficient ways.”

Chairman David Price (NC-04) commended Congressman Rodriguez on the new position, which takes effect immediately.

“Our subcommittee has counted on the knowledge and understanding of the border region that Congressman Rodriguez has brought to the table,” Chairman Price said. “I’m delighted that we can continue to rely on his expertise and wise counsel as our subcommittee’s new vice chairman.”

The Subcommittee consists of 16 members, including ex-officio members Congressman David R. Obey (WI-07) and Congressman Jerry Lewis (CA-41).

Congressman Rodriguez is one of five Members from Texas who serve on the powerful committee, and the only one from the border. During his tenure, he spearheaded the resurrection of Operation Stonegarden, a grant program that has awarded \$60 million annually to border sheriffs and police departments.

Richard Perez, President and CEO of the San Antonio Greater Chamber of Commerce said the announcement marks “a great day for San Antonio and the state.”

"I am thrilled," Perez said. "Given the importance of homeland security issues and cyber security for this community, this is a tremendous opportunity for us to continuing showing the rest of the world what we have. Congressman Rodriguez has shown tremendous leadership in this area."

Perez noted that Congressman Rodriguez recently attended a San Antonio area cyber security summit and brought top-notch individuals to participate, including Homeland Security officials, White House Cyber Security Coordinator Howard Schmidt and Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence.

Hudspeth County Sheriff Arvin West said he was very pleased to hear of the Congressman's new position on the Committee.

"This is definitely good news for the border," said Sheriff West. "He will now be in a position to rattle some bushes, make things happen and have a more direct effect on border law enforcement."

Congressman Rodriguez also serves on the Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation, Housing & Urban Development and Related Agencies; and Legislative Branch and sits on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs where he is a member of the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Assistance & Memorial Affairs. Congressman Rodriguez remains a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) where he serves as the Chair of the Taskforce on Agriculture and Rural Communities.

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